(c) the quantum of assistance sought by the State Government to meet the requirtments of the drough-hit people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of loss as reported by the State Government due to drought is given below:—

(i) No. of Districts affected: 18

(ii) No. of villages affected: 5,351

(iii) Population affected: 272.90 lakhs

(iv) Cropped area affected: 34.00 lakh ha.

(v) Cattle population affected 142.86 lakh.

(c) An assistance of Rs. 546.50 crores was sought by the State Government.

Issue of Ration Cards in Delhi

*11. SHRI JERLIE E. TRAIANG: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no fresh Ration Cards are being issued to the new Residents of Delhi and to those who are residing in J.J. Colonies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to review its decision and intend to issue new ration-cards?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fixing of responsibility of the officers by Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

*12. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1283 given in Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. has identified and fixed the responsibility; in respect of the officers involved in the Urea theft at Barauni Fertilizer plant;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what sort of punishment has been awarded to the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) to (c) An enquiry conducted by a Committee revealed shortage in urea, relating to the period from April, 1983 to December, 1985 January, 1986. This was mainly due to the accumulated result of errors in declaration of production and inherent difficulties in estimation of the physical stock of urea in the silo, particularly when the silo had a high stock. In the light of the enquiry report, the officers responsible for the lapses were asked to furnish their explantation, on the basis of which no *prima-facie* case could be established for fixing the responsibility on individual officers. However, the officers have been cautioned to avoid such lapses in future.

Rise in the prices of Essential Commodities in Delhi

*13. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of the essential commodities in Delhi had registered a sharp increase during the last two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES